

null
Diana T Fritz 12/05/2006 11:52:34 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 00035

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: POL
INFO: PAO RSO AMB DCM MEPI P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: POL:JMAYBURY
CLEARED: NONE

VZCZCADI149
OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ RHEHNSC
DE RUEHAD #0035 0030911
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 030911Z JAN 05
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7508
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000035

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/02/2015
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE APPROVES IOM OVERSEAS VOTER PROGRAM FOR IRAQIS

REF: 04 ABU DHABI 4714

(U) Classified by Ambassador Michele J. Sison, reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

¶1. (U) The UAE and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a memorandum of understanding January 2 in Abu Dhabi allowing Iraqi expatriates living in the UAE and other Gulf countries to take part in the January 30 Iraqi elections. The agreement covers all aspects of the Out-of-Country Voter (OCC) program promised by IOM (see reftel). The MOU, which is valid for three months, was signed by Mohammed Al Nasiri, director of the Iraqi Voting Program at the IOM, and MFA Under Secretary Abdullah Rashid Al Noaimi.

¶2. (U) The MOU establishing an OCV program does the following:

-- establishes two voting centers in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, staffed by international, Iraqi, and local officials. These officials will have freedom to operate.

-- exempts equipment imported for use in the elections from any fees or customs duties.

-- UAE and IOM will adopt necessary procedures to ensure confidentiality and impartiality of voters and the voting

SIPDIS
process, without UAEG political interference.

-- international and Iraqi observers and voters, representatives coming to observe the election will receive visas.

-- UAE will provide protection for voting centers and for international, Iraqi, and local observers.

-- UAE will adopt all necessary procedures to ensure an election environment free from any violence, threat or coercion.

-- UAE agrees to cooperate with IOM to make information on elections available to Iraqis living in the UAE (approximately 50,000 by Iraqi Embassy estimates).

¶3. (C) In their official pronouncements, as well as in private meetings with Emboffs, UAE officials have indicated full support for the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Interim Government,s decision to go forward with the elections as scheduled. Tariq Al Haidan, MFA Assistant Under Secretary for Political Affairs, told Pol Chief December 29 that there would be no change in the UAEG,s policy toward Iraq and the elections. &We will accept every Iraqi and we want to help as much as we can, from issuing visas for them to get here to providing security for them to vote,8 he said.

¶4. (U) The Embassy,s Iraqi contacts have expressed mixed feelings about the upcoming elections. Some say that adhering to the January 30 elections timetable is essential, and that not doing so would be tantamount to surrendering to the insurgents who want to disrupt the elections and destroy Iraq. Others fear that the lack of security in Iraq will make it impossible to hold a free and fair election, and add that the U.S. and Iraqi Interim Government should reconsider holding the elections at a later date once security is assured.

¶5. (U) On December 24, more than 600 Iraqis attended a forum organized by the Iraqi Business Council of Abu Dhabi aimed at informing them about registration and voting procedures. Registrations will take place from January 17 to 23 and after reviewing the registrations, those eligible to vote will be notified.

¶6. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.
SISON